



THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 41

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A Word From Our Chairman

The 7th Annual General Meeting was held in The Music Room on Monday, May 16th. 55 volunteers attended and the guests included Ann Mills, President, AGO Volunteer Committee; Sandra Matthews, Vice President, AGO Volunteer Committee and past Chairman, The Grange Volunteer Committee; Joyce Davenall Turner, Manager of Volunteer Activity; Valliere Cronyn, past Chairman of The Grange Committee of the Board of the AGO; Charles Hagen, Chairman, Grange Committee of the Board of the AGO.

Fourteen reports were given, and were seconded by Charles Hagen, who also congratulated all the volunteers on their hard work and enthusiasm.

After the meeting was adjourned, wine and a light supper were served.

There are two changes on the Executive Committee of The Grange Volunteers. Alice Gray is the new Education Chairman, and Connie Masters, the Saturday day captain, is the Publicity Chairman. I would like to welcome them to the Executive, and I look forward to working with them.

Thank you, one and all, for your contribution, enthusiasm and commitment throughout the past year. It has been a very busy, productive and successful year, and I am looking forward to another year as your Chairman.

The house is now open on Mondays, until Labour Day. The front door will be open for this period, and there will be a security guard at the door.

The Grange needs more volunteers to help out in the summer months, especially on weekends and Mondays. "Friends make the best volunteers" - why not ask a friend to become a Grange volunteer.

CALENDAR

The Grange Annual Autumn Lecture will be on Sunday, September 25th at 3:00 pm., in the Jackman Hall. Professor William Kilbourn will talk about his recent book "Toronto Remembered". The tickets are \$10.00 each, come and bring a friend.

The Autumn training session will be called "Eat, Drink and be Merry".

The dates are:

Tuesday, September 20th
"Out of the Kitchen"

Tuesday, October 4th
"Behind the Scenes"

Monday, October 17th
"Dressing for Dinner"

Monday, November 7th
"Fashions in Art"

Supper will be served at 5:15 pm and the lectures will begin at 6:00 pm.

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The dates for the Autumn Luncheon/Lectures are as follows:

Thursday, October 27th
Thursday, November 3rd
Thursday, November 10th

Patricia Robertson and Susan Howling, Wednesday evening volunteers, have each written a very interesting paper.

Pat has written "A Short History of Slavery in Canada", and the title of Sue's paper is "An Artist's Life in Upper Canada During the 1830's."

Pat and Sue have put in a lot of time in research for their papers, which are in plastic folders in the Library and Peggy's office.

Grange Library News

The Grange Library has recently acquired a copy of:

Cruikshank, Tom.
"Port Hope: a Treasury of Early Homes". Port Hope, Bluestone House, 1987.

This book includes stories and illustrations of many of Port Hope's historic houses. See page 24 - Penryn Homestead (c.1832). An early photo, and the text, indicate its similarity to Toronto's Grange. See also pages 82-3 for illustrations of Port Hope's The Grange (c.1832).

Mary Ash

A VOLUNTEER'S INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIC INTERPRETATION given at Gibson House by OHS on April 30, 1988.

Anne Mercer, Diana Weatherall, Anne Hope-Brown and Florence Watts attended a workshop on Saturday, April 30, 1988, at Gibson House, conducted by Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society. Topics included:-

- the role of the interpreter
- the importance of the interpretive plan
- training programs
- problem solving situations
- the need for evaluation

Interpreters, both volunteer and staff from other Metro and district historic sites attended. Dorothy Duncan is extremely knowledgeable about 19th century life as well as witty and articulate. She gave stimulation to all of us as she led us through her day-long workshop.

All Grange volunteers would enjoy a training such as we had. Watch the bulletin board for further training - The Grange pays part of the registration fee - or better still, let's have Dorothy Duncan come here and repeat the training we had at Gibson House.

These are Dorothy Duncan's "The Interpreter's Ten Commandments" :-

1. Thou shalt have no personal life while on the job.
2. Thou shalt adorn thyself with only those raiments that have been researched and prepared for thee.

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3. Thou shalt strip away all those jewels, buckles, bows and timepieces that art thy own vain adornments
4. Thou shalt put thy visitors at ease and in comfort
5. Thou shalt learn when to speak and when to remain silent, remembering to control thy love of thy own voice, droning on... and on....
6. Thou shalt learn to speak truth, plain, unvarnished truth.
7. Thou shalt learn how to be brief, recognizing that it is impossible to give all visitors brain transplants.
8. Thou shalt learn how to say "I do not know" whenever it is appropriate, recognizing that it is impossible to know everything about our past from Creation to the present
9. Thou shalt stimulate the visitors to laugh, to think, to ponder, to question, and finally
10. Thou shalt send visitors away, wanting to know more, to read a book, to visit another museum, or just to question the everyday things that surround them, recognizing that our history has been, and always will be, made up of everyday things.

Florence Watts

Some interesting points made at the OHS seminar April 30.

-Many children have no time frame. Dates have no relevance to them but "when the house was brand new" they can easily understand.

-The logs in corduroy roads were laid either lengthwise or across.

-Oxen were preferred to horses because they did not get nervous when a stump or rock was hit, but steadied down and tried again. Also in times of food shortage an ox could be eaten while the British tradition prevented eating horses.

-If carpets were owned they went in the bedrooms first to keep out drafts.

-There was a marketing push by 1837 to fit stoves into fireplaces.

-There were itinerate weavers who would weave your flax or wool for you.

Diana Weatherall

TRUER WORDS....

Reward: Something to Think About.

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement
nears

That there's a special place
in Heaven

Set aside for volunteers
Furnished with big recliners
Satin couches and footstools
Where there's no committee
chairman

No group leaders or car pools
No eager team that needs a coach
No bazaar and no bake sale
There will be nothing to staple
Not one thing to fold or mail
Telephone lists will be outlawed
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners
And rare treats fit for a king
You ask, "Who'll serve these
privileged few

And work for all they're worth?"
Why, all those who reaped the
benefits

And not once volunteered on earth!

(Author Unknown)

ONE VOLUNTEER IS BETTER THAN TEN
FORCED MEN (African Proverb)

Mary Aziz

HARRIETTE

The Tuesday afternoon group had a red letter day in February, when a descendant of Harriettes visited the house, and made herself known. She was Prue Iremonger from New Zealand.

This pleasant dark-eyed, young woman, with her distinctive New Zealand accent, was most wrapped up in the "Aunt Hattie" part of her family tree. Indeed, she said that her mother had inherited a Limoges china set that had belonged to Harriette, as well as the diamond engagement ring given to Harriette by William Henry, and now worn by Prue for her visit here.

It was interesting to note, though, from what Prue said, that word had come down over the years that Goldwin Smith had been the "real love of Harriette's life".

Jane was able to pass on information that we have on Harriette and Prue promised to send us all that she can assemble in the way of information handed down in her mother's family about her.

They are descended from Harriette's brother, Benjamin Homer and his second wife. For this family tree, one may refer to the book "Ontarian Families" in our library, under number 929.2, pages 58-59.

Ruth Vanderlip

VISITING CARDSStandard Card

A double card for wife and husband or mother and daughter, was 3½ ins. x 2½ ins. pure white with the edges finished on unglazed bristol board with no decoration.

The owner's name and address was printed and if it was a woman's card it also named her day at home.

The printing was in block letters, script or Old English lettering. To be in good teste, the card should be printed in black on pure white.

The cards were left at a friend's day at home....The first call of the season and to congratulate, condone, or bid farewell. A man would leave his card on the tray for his hostess and host.

It was the fashion before 1895, to crease visiting cards when a chance call is made and the persons required are not at home.

If the left end is bent toward the centre, it indicates all feminine members were included in the call; if the right end it indicates a formal call.

WEDDING CAKE, ANYONE?

Recipe from "The Cook Not Mad".

Eighteen pounds of flour,
twelve of butter, twelve of sugar,
six of raisins, six of currants,
three of citron,
12 dozen eggs.
half pound of cloves
one quart of brandy, and as much
other spice as you like.

There are no instructions for mixing or baking, so we presume that all the cooks reading this list of ingredients knew how to proceed.

Ruth Vanderlip.

